

The Center for Environmental Genetics is pleased to announce that **Michelle Burbage, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Public Health Sciences, has agreed to serve as co-leader of the CEG Community Engagement Core. Dr. Burbage will work alongside core leader **Nicholas Newman, D.O., M.S.**, and Program Manager **Angela Larck, MSOL**, to advance community-based participatory research and the translation of knowledge gained from CEG-supported studies of gene-environment interactions.



Michelle Burbage, Ph.D.

“We are thrilled to have Dr. Burbage join the CEG team,” said Center Director Susan Pinney, Ph.D., FACE. Pinney served as core director from 2018 through 2020. “As the reach and impact of the CEG community engagement core continues to grow, the addition of Dr. Burbage and her skills in research, education, and work among vulnerable populations is very timely and welcome.”

Burbage has worked on projects with the Ronald McDonald House, Urban Appalachian Council, YWCA’s mammogram outreach program, and local schools and health departments. In 2018 Burbage received the prestigious Mirzayan Science & Technology Policy Fellowship of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

CEC leader Nick Newman, D.O., M.S., is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center and Site Director of the NIEHS-funded Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) at CCHMC. The CEG **Community Engagement Core** provides an essential interface between population and bench scientists specializing in the study of gene-environment interactions and stakeholders throughout our region. To read more about the CEC click [here](#). Follow the CEC on Facebook [here](#).

Inaugural class of University Research Council Faculty Scholars includes two new CEG members

New CEG Associate Member **Katherine Vest, PhD** (2019), Assistant Professor in the Department of Molecular Genetics, Biochemistry and Microbiology, and CEG New Investigator Awardee **Patrick Ray , PhD** (NIA 2020), Assistant Professor in the College of Engineering and Applied Science, have been named to the inaugural class of **University Research Council Faculty Scholars**. Each of these URC Faculty Scholars is receiving \$25,000 to take a transformative research idea and develop it over the next 2 years. Vest plans to use a previously untapped approach to track the distribution of copper in cells to better understand how this essential but toxic trace metal modifies the proteins that bind to and control RNA to impact gene expression. Dr. Ray specializes in the development and application of numerical models of the integrated hydro-economic system for risk management under uncertainty. His work includes leading a team that is working to complete a historical reconstruction of source water contamination by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).



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Recent Publications

Koikov L, Starner RJ, **Swope VB**, Upadhyay P, Hashimoto Y, Freeman KT, Knittel JJ, Haskell-Luevano C, **Abdel-Malek ZA**. Development of hMC1R selective small agonists for sunless tanning and prevention of genotoxicity of UV in melanocytes. *J Invest Dermatol*. [PMID: 33609553](#).

Cardarelli K, Ickes M, Huntington-Moskos L, Wimhoff C, **Larck A, Pinney SM**, Hahn EJ. Authentic youth engagement in environmental health research and advocacy. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. PMID: [PMC7926324](#).

Yadav E, Yadav N, Hus A, **Yadav JS**. Aquaporins in lung health and disease: Emerging roles, regulation, and clinical implications. *Respir Med*. [PMID: 33096317](#).

Brandt EB, **Mersha TB**. Environmental determinants of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). *Curr Allergy Asthma Rep*. PMID: [PMC7934813](#).

Holmes R, Ma J, Andra SS, **Wang HS**. [Effect of common consumer washing methods on Bisphenol A release in tritan drinking bottles](#). *Chemosphere*. 2021 Mar 21.